

Converting to Organic Production

Organic Certification Program



See Also:

- What Is Organic?
- Organic Production in Montana
- National Organic Program
- Organic Crop Production
- Organic Livestock Production
- Organic Handling Facilities
- Organic Certification
- How to be Certified
- Converting to Organic Production
- Sources of Organic Information

For more information, contact:

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Converting the Manager

- Read and understand the applicable standards
- Learn record keeping requirements
- Develop a network for information and advice
- Visit other producers and operations
- Practice systems thinking
- Know where and how to sell organic products
- Apply to the MDA Conversion Program

Converting Land

- Do not use prohibited materials for three years prior to harvest of organic crop
- Document prior land use
- Develop an Organic Production System Plan
 - Design crop rotation
 - Locate sources of organic seed
 - Plan soil building/fertility program
 - Determine weed and pest management strategies

Converting Livestock

- Learn species-specific conversion times
- Do not use prohibited products
- Document source of animals
- Certify pasture, hay and forage land
- Develop an Organic Production System Plan
 - Locate sources of organic feed
 - Determine health management strategies
 - Plan housing/shelter and manure management

Conversion Program

- Application Review
 - One-half regular application fee
 - Submit application and organic system plan forms
 - MDA will review forms and report any deficiencies
- Full Review and Inspection
 - ***New Applicant Fee is waived***
 - Same applications fees as regular applicants
 - Submit all forms and documentation
 - MDA will review all forms, records and documentation, and inspection report and report any deficiencies